

# National Catholic Theater Conference

## Production Calendar

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### MEET YOUR NEW EDITOR

With this issue the editing of the Production Calendar passes to the competent hands of Miss Margaret Heslin, who contributed many bright spots to last year's issues. We are grateful for her generous willingness to assume responsibility for the bulletin, and proud that the Conference has enlisted the support of another talented "professional."

Miss Heslin is employed in the Editorial Department of New York's largest newspaper, and has recently been transferred to the writing desk which handles script for news radio broadcasts. Her success in her chosen field is a tribute to her talent and her personality, and, we believe also, to her Catholic college training.

The duties of a dean leave Sister Mary Peter undaunted! She's going to be chairman of the drama department of Rosary College too. With the assistance of Sister Mary Gregory, she has planned a year's schedule of plays from a November comedy to an outdoor production of "The Tempest" in May.

At Barat College, Lake Forest, Annamay Hawkotte, drama director, has scheduled Twelfth Night, Cyrano de Bergerac, Ladies of the Jury, and Seven Sisters. And in the interests of Pan-Americanism, drama students will also work with the foreign language department to present a program of Latin-American poetry and drama. More than that --- there will be radio work for speech students and cooperative activities with the Catholic Youth Theatre.

Puppets have the stage at St. Mary's Academy of Prairie du Chien, Wis. Last year the speech and art department joined forces to present "The Merchant of Venice". This year's program is even more ambitious. Under the direction of Therese Marie Cuny the students are going to do several Shakespearian productions. Every detail of the work, including musical background and lights, is designed and handled by the girls.

Saint Catherine's Players in Racine, Wis. are warming up to another big year. They have scheduled three 3-act plays, several one-acters, and to highlight their season they are going to do an invitation program for the Racine Children's Theatre. Their choice for the last is "Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates."

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From Charles Costello, St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Ia., comes a wide-sweeping design for the Play Committee. He proposes that a questionnaire compiled by the Committee be sent to each member of the Midwest Regional, National Catholic Theatre Conference to pool the resources of Catholic drama and find ways and means to get more and better Catholic plays written. The plan touches both stage and radio plays and the compiled answers would make possible a list of recommended plays, a digest of opinion on the practicality of a Catholic play writing contest and then to make possible the planning of such a contest on the basis of the answers given.

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Last summer San Francisco needed a regional chairman. So did Los Angeles. But now two new chairmen are putting their heads together across the miles to boost Catholic Theatre interest in California. They are Genevieve Sullivan, S.F., and Joseph Rice, L.A.

By way of introduction --- Emmet Lavery suggested Miss Sullivan as an "ideal successor to Miss Musante." And of Mr. Rice he said, he is a "fine worker", keenly interested in regionalism.

Miss Sullivan is deep in the work of the San Francisco Theatre Guild. And here's a happy hint from her to those who moan the theatrical loss of men to the armed service. "The boys who have gone in the service are carrying Catholic Theatre with them." Mr. Rice --- for whom the Army may be just around the corner, cheerfully says he understands there's a U.S. posted "Los Angeles City Limits" sign just outside Melbourne.

#### Loyola Adds and Subtracts

Rev. F. G. Dineen, S.J., moderator of the Loyola Community theatre has announced that the group will not carry on its regular program this year because of war conditions. Rather than lower the high standards set through fifteen years of production because of limited talent now available, Father Dineen said it was believed to be best to suspend the Theatre's plans for the time being. It is expected however that the lecture program will be continued. On October 11, Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, D.D., spoke at the theatre.

#### Sixteen Carmelite Martyrs

William Thomas Walsh has just completed a play in blank verse on the story of the sixteen Carmelite Martyrs of Compiegne. He carefully points out that it is not a dramatization of Gertrude von le Fort's "Song from the Scaffold", which portrays a fictitious character against the background of the trials and executions of the Carmelites.

Mr. Walsh's play is historically true. It gives prominence to the part of the prioress and a fantastic poet, who unwittingly furnished the pretext for the condemnation of the sixteen nuns. Most of the characters --- twenty or more --- are women. Mr. Walsh also said the play will be presented in February by Manhattanville College.

## Happy New Year!

Another conference year is under way -- and isn't it like the opening of school? Old friends back --- (but we're still waiting for some of them --- must be they're coming in a later mail!) --- summer doings to talk over and, of course, fall plans to get excited about.

This season we can share those plans with conference members from coast to coast and from Mexico to --- no, not just the Canadian border --- but Canada itself. Rev. David Michael Stanley, S.J., Montreal, P.Q. is one of our newest conference members.

Felix Doherty, author of the Francis Thompson play, "Song Out of Sorrow", (New York Blackfriar production of last season) is also with us.

But whether your conference membership is old or new or freshly renewed, we're delighted to know you're with us working for a better than ever year for Catholic drama.

### The Army and the Act

We never thought the show spark died when a sergeant barked "You're in the Army now!" --- this proves it doesn't. Pfc. Wright Jackson walked away with first prize in the original play contest sponsored by the Writers' Conference, Evanston, Illinois. His competition: a formidable company from Northwestern University. His entry: Pvt. Worst Class..

And Pvt. Robert F. Carroll, pre-army member of the Catholic Theatre Guild of Louisville, Ky., writes that he's now doing "Brother Rat" with the Medical Corps in Virginia.

### Contest Cues

The John Hopkins Playshop is offering a fifty dollar award for the best play submitted before December 15, 1942 for college production. All manuscripts must be original, unproduced, full-length plays. The Playshop will stage the winning script in 1943. All other rights will be retained by the author. For additional information write The Johns Hopkins University Playshop, Homewood, Baltimore, Maryland.

Another contest, sponsored by Louisiana Non-Professional Theatre Conference, offers production and royalties to the winner. Address all inquiries and manuscripts to: Myra White, Bureau of Dramatics, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.

## All Aboard for Broadway

Last season the New York Blackfriars Guild opened its "little theatre around the corner from Broadway." And now, less than a year later, it's definitely established as a show case for scripts and talent and as a medium straddling the difficulties of a cramped community stage and the expense of a metropolitan production.

In the Guild's brief span it has already read 153 plays and interviewed 213 professional actors. And for some of those players it has been a short step from the 57th Street playhouse to Broadway.

Joann Dolan, ingenue of "The Years Between", scored a hit in Maxwell Anderson's "The Eve of St. Mark". Dort Clark of that same Blackfriar show is now rehearsing for a Broadway opening. John Campbell is in the second cast of "Junior Miss." Paul Wendell of "Up the Rebels" had a full season in operetta at Carnegie Hall. Numerous other Blackfriar players spent a busy summer in stock or on tour..

"Inside Story" is going to launch the second Blackfriar season on October 29. It is a new play of course --- and also a first play for its author, Peter Sheehan, a defense worker of Rochester, New York.

### They Did It Before ...

Detroit scores again! At the same time the Catholic Theatre of Detroit announced that Daniel M. Sunday had been elected its new president. Mr. Sunday threw the spot-light on some of the Guild's activities of the past two years..

You know of the many and ambitious play projects successfully completed --- but that's only the beginning. Mr. Sunday explained that the group has given more than two thousand dollars to Catholic charities --- trained over two hundred young people in dramatics --- and has laid the foundation for a permanent theatre through the purchase of scenery, stage, and lighting equipment and other production necessities..

Last season's major productions were seen by over 26 thousand persons and the Guild's entertainment service provided programs for 72 Catholic and civic organizations.

Paul A. Lilly who organized the group is now full-time business manager.

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## ROYALTY REDUCTIONS

The following plays are available to Conference members at a reduced royalty rate. The first group of plays is new to our list. The others we repeat for the convenience of those who recently joined the Conference:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>List</u>	<u>Conference Rate</u>
Heaven Can Wait (from which "Here Comes Mr. Jordan" was filmed)	Dramatists Play Service	\$25.	\$20.
Ladies in Retirement	"	\$50.	\$35 for the first performance; \$25. thereafter.
Tobias and the Angel	Samuel French		\$20. for the first; \$15. thereafter.
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Brother Orchid	French	\$25.	\$20.
Yellow Jack	Dramatists Play Service	\$25.	\$20.
Thunder Rock	"	\$25.	\$20.
The Wolves	"	\$15.	\$10.
Passenger to Bali	"	\$25.	\$20.
Shadow and Substance	"	\$35.	\$25.
Days Without End	"	\$35.	\$30.
Father Malachy's Miracle	"	\$35.	\$25.

Groups wishing to take advantage of royalty reductions must be certified by the National Catholic Theatre Conference headquarters at least one month in advance of production. Write to us, telling us the play you wish to use and the date of performance, and we will send certification to the publisher. The reduced royalty fee must be paid to the publisher five days in advance of production; if it is not, the maximum fee must be paid.

### OCTOBER PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

New York	Blackfriars	Inside Story - October 29 - November 7.
Detroit	Catholic Theatre	The More the Merrier - October 9 - 10.
Springfield, Ill.	Springfield Junior College	Skylark

### BRIEFLY ..... BROADWAY

Walter Kerr's "Count Me In" was the first of the season's musicals.

Maxwell Anderson's "Eve of St. Mark" upset the contention that no one could write a serious war play until the war was over. Critics declared "St. Mark" first rank, honest portrait of both soldiers and civilians.

Rev. I. J. Semper's October Catholic World article, "The Quintessence of Chesterton" reached New York at almost time that Eddie Dowling opened Chesterton's "Magic".

Inside Story - October 29 - November 7.  
The More the Merrier - October 9 - 10.

Skylark

### QUESTIONS FROM THE DESK

"The Moon Is Down" has been suggested as a royalty reduction piece. Is anyone interested?

William H. Sadlier, Inc., publishers, have written to ask for Sister M. Constantia's translation of Henri Theon's "The Sultan's Daughter and the Good Gardner". If any one knows where a copy can be found, will you write us.

And will you write us and let us know what you are doing this season?

Have you renewed your Conference membership?

